


PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P3096 WO ORD	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02473	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 06.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61M16/04		
Applicant KAPITEX HEALTHCARE LIMITED et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinionII <input type="checkbox"/> PriorityIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicabilityIV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of inventionV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statementVI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents citedVII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international applicationVIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application		
Date of submission of the demand 13.01.2004	Date of completion of this report 07.07.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Borowski, A Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2758	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/02473**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1, 2, 4-10 as originally filed
3 filed with telefax on 18.06.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-4, 5 (part), 10 (part), 11 received on 05.02.2004 with letter of 03.02.2004
5 (part), 6-9, 10 (part) filed with telefax on 18.06.2004

Drawings, Figures

1A, 1B, 2, 3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 10 11

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 11 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 10,11

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

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see separate sheet

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Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

- III.1 Claims 10 and 11 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT, as it discloses a method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery: a method for mounting a cannula in a tracheostomy (decision of the Board of Appeal T182/90 should be observed). Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).
- III.2 Furthermore claim 11 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. Said claim contains a reference to the drawing. According to Rule 6.2(a) PCT, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The document D4 was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is appended hereto.

D4: US-A-4 489 723 (ELLIOT SIMONS; BOULOS ROBERT) 25 December 1984
(1984-12-25)

Document **D4** is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows a tracheostomy cannula mounting for assisting in the mounting of a cannula within a stoma of a tracheostomy patient comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein of suitable size and shape to engage a channel portion of a tracheostomy cannula in interference fit so as to present a rearward mounting face adapted in use to lie against the skin of the tracheostomy patient in the vicinity of the stoma, wherein the material from which the sheet is fabricated comprises silicone rubber at least in the vicinity of the mounting face.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known device in that the material from

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which the sheet is fabricated comprises a tacky silicone gel material.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as how to provide a more effective, reusable air seal between a tracheal cannula and a tracheostomy.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

- Document D4 teaches a use of Vaseline or the like lubricants to be employed between the silicone sealing member and the throat surface in order to provide a water tight seal about the tracheal stoma. Such additional substances can however irritate the skin and are more complicated in use;
- Document D1 (US-A-3 640 741) discloses a sealing ring made from a tacky gel to be used for a slow release of medications to the patient's skin around a stoma (colostomy, ileostomy). However the sealing ring of D1 comprises a material, which is not silicone and is completely soluble, therefore the ring cannot be reused. Furthermore the document teaches, that silicone is not suitable for the specific application, as it does not dissolve. D1 does not mention tacky silicone;
- An application of tacky silicone gel material for sealing purposes is not known from the prior art.

Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

V.3 Independent claim 1 should have been written in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, with those features known from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

V.4 The features of the claims should have been provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Druckexemplar

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 28 November 2003 (28.11.2003);
original claims 1-12 replaced by amended claims 1-1 (3 pages)]

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1. A tracheostoma cannula mounting for assisting in the mounting of a cannula within a stoma of a tracheostoma patient comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein of suitable size and shape to engage a channel portion of a tracheostoma cannula in interference fit so as to present a rearward mounting face adapted in use to lie against the skin of the tracheostoma patient in the vicinity of the stoma, wherein the material from which the sheet is fabricated comprises tacky silicone gel material at least in the vicinity of the mounting face.

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2. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the inner edge defining the aperture in the mounting member presents a surface of tacky gel material to contact with the cannula in use.
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3. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sheet portion comprise a tacky gel layer in a multi-layer sheet.
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4. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sheet portion consists essentially solely of the tacky gel material, save for an optional thin layer of non-tacky protective material at edges and/or faces of the sheet portion which are adapted to lie externally in use and/or be removed prior to use.
5. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with any preceding claim wherein the aperture in the sheet portion of the mounting member is generally circular and shaped and sized to engage the outer

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circumference of the channel portion of a generally cylindrical cannula in interference fit.

- 5 6. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 5 wherein the mounting member is generally circular, such that the mounting member comprises an annular portion of sheet material.
- 10 7. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with any preceding claim wherein the sheet material is 1 to 7 mm thick.
- 15 8. A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with any preceding claim further comprising a removable non-tacky protective layer over the mounting surface which can readily be removed by a user to expose the tacky surface of the gel to allow the mounting member to be applied.
- 20 9. A tracheostoma cannula comprising a central channel portion adapted to be received through a stoma, a forward portion adapted to sit externally of the stoma in use and a mounting portion adapted to sit within the trachea abutting an internal surface of the stoma in use, and comprising a flange portion of increased cross section to the body portion so as to assist in retaining the cannula within the stoma, and further comprising a mounting in accordance with any preceding claim comprising a sheet portion provided with an aperture so sized and shaped as in use to be retained around the channel portion of the cannula immediately external of the stoma in interference fit, so as to present a mounting face engageable upon the external surface of the tracheal region of the wearer in the vicinity of the stoma in use.
- 25 10. A method of sealably mounting a cannula in a tracheostoma comprises the steps of inserting a cannula into the stoma, applying a mounting in
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accordance with any of claims 1 to 9 therearound so as to present the mounting face to the skin of the external surface of the tracheal region of a wearer in the vicinity of the stoma, applying pressure to effect a releasable seal between mounting face and skin.

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11. A tracheostoma cannula mounting, a tracheostoma cannula assembly, or a method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.